***Savage Inequalities Discussion***

1. "I have four girls right now in my senior home room who are pregnant or have just had babies. When I ask them why this happens, I am told, 'Well, there's no reason not to have a baby. There's not much for me in public school.' The truth is, that's a pretty honest answer. A diploma from a ghetto high school doesn't count for much in the United States today.” (Kozol pg. 3)

-This passage is sad to me because these girls shouldn’t have been raised to think that they’re only good for reproducing. The question I have is, why do girls that live in “ghetto” areas become easily discouraged because of their community background? If I were them I’d want to show everyone that there is more to me than where I grew up because they didn’t choose that lifestyle, it was chosen for them.

1. “Even if the destitution and the racial segregation and the toxic dangers of the air and soil cannot be immediately addressed, why is it that we can’t at least pour vast amounts of money, ingenuity and talent into public education for these children?” (Kozol, pg. 40).

-This quote is logical but the answer to the question from my point of view is they don’t see education important enough to invest that much money into children THEY THINK doesn’t deserve it. Why are students judged on the color of their skin before judged on their academic performance? Why can’t money be used to increase the quality of facilities and education given to these children?

3. “… A child is not born to the station of its parents, but with an indefinite claim to all the prizes that can be won by thought and labor.” (Kozol, pg. 83)

-I thought this quote was the intent of education in a nutshell. This quote goes on to discuss the theory of equality in life and that parents socio economic standing should have no say in what their child ends up doing. My question is why must children follow in their parent’s footsteps if they see where it has brought their family as a whole? Wouldn’t you learn from it and try to overcome it instead of living that way forever with no say in the educational system and no say in what you’re paid.

4. “The differences are justified by telling us that equity must always be ‘approximate’ and cannot possibly be perfect.  But the imperfection falls in almost every case to the advantage of the privileged” (Kozol, pg. 175).

- This quote emphasizes the crisis of school funding. The meaning here is that always the advantage those in rich neighborhoods will receive the funding, where the children of that school with remain rich like their parents and therefore succeed in life. On the other hand, the children that come from poor families live in poor neighborhoods, attending poor schools where don’t get the equal right in funding; thus not getting the benefit of the doubt. Why were stereotypes so important to those that had the power to give schools funding?

5. “All our children ought to be allowed a stake in the enormous richness of America” (Kozol, pg. 233).

-This one doesn’t need to be explained as thoroughly because it says it for itself. America’s children all have the right at a chance of success in America so why doesn’t each state give certain districts that opportunity based on their community background?

6. “ The school system, it is also notes, has been using more than 70 “permanent substitute teachers,” who are paid only 10,000 yearly, as a way of saving money” (Kozol, pg 83)

-This quote upsets me because there are people out there who spent money to fufill their dream in becoming a teacher and in return, theyre being taken advantage of. If teacher are completely necessary, why are they so stingy with paying them the amount they’re worth?